

PRESS NOTE

EUSR excel announces its final results

WHAT IS EUSR excel?

The EUSR excel (Towards a European University Social Responsibility Excellence Award) project is an initiative in which HE institutions and research organisations worked together to develop a common framework of criteria and indicators of Social Responsibility in the field of Higher Education. Through research and training, this project raises awareness among University management and staff to institutionalize University Social Responsibility (USR) recognizing it formally in relevant quality indicators. This project was conceived after identifying the need for a common framework that measures and certifies Social Responsibility in the higher education sector, supporting institutions in meeting the EC agenda on Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive growth, which includes social responsibility.

This project comprised two key intellectual outputs. The first phase focused on building a theoretical framework to develop the model of reference to identify and harmonize the key USR indicators. The second phase centered on creating a USR Online Evaluation Tool and the Design of a USR Quality Certification:

EUSR excel Project theoretical framework



USR state of the
art survey



USR Indicators

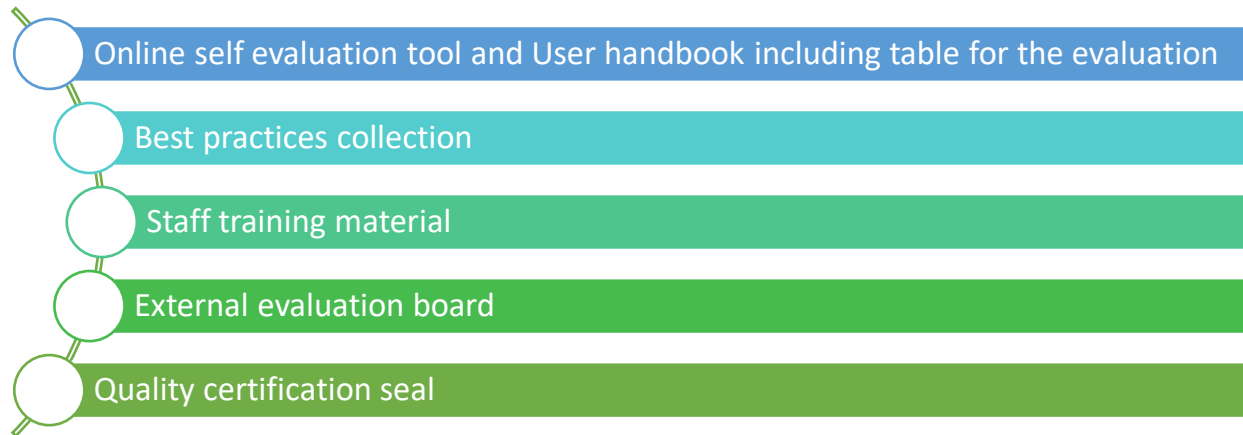


EUSR EXCEL
Online platform



Wiki

EUSRexcel Online Evaluation Tool and USR Quality Certification



Funded by ERASMUS+, this project was carried out over 36 months, from September 2018 to August 2021 with the support of CONEXX-EU (Belgium), The University of Applied Sciences VAMK-Vaasa (Finland), Dublin City University (Ireland), Innovation Training Centre (Spain), The University of La Sapienza (Italy), the University of Girona (Spain) and a number of associated partners from the academic sector across Europe to create a network of universities with a USR quality certification.

The relevance of the European framework of USR harmonized indicators resides on the provision of a universal measurement tool for management boards at universities to assess their commitment to USR, and the creation of a new USR Quality Seal to reward higher education institutions based on their performance in USR.



PROJECT RESULTS

The mobilization of expertise from our key and associated partners have contributed to raising awareness amid the participating universities and external stakeholders such as management boards, administrative staff, academics and researchers that collaborated in this initiative to identify the strengths and weaknesses in terms of socially responsible involvement within their sphere of influence. Furthermore, the work undertaken over 36 months resulted in the creation of a EUSR excel guide, an Online Self Evaluation tool on USR, a Users Handbook, a Table for Evaluation, a Good practices illustration, Staff Training material, an External Evaluation Board and a USR Quality Seal that integrate a common framework that can be easily used by European universities and with this, promote a harmonization and consciousness of the importance of the Social responsibility within higher education institutions.

More information can be found on project website at:

<https://socialresponsibilityaward.eu>

EUSRexcel materials

Materials developed in EUSRexcel project and how to use them

01 EUSREXCEL GUIDE TOWARDS A COMMON APPROACH TO USR INDICATORS

This guide inspires, encourages and supports universities to implement USR actions and to create their own auto-evaluation system that could be recognised at a European level



02 EUSREXCEL SELF EVALUATION TOOL USER'S HANDBOOK

This handbook provides the correct use of the EUSRexcel self-evaluation tool. Through this tool, universities will be able to evaluate their current level of USR.

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03 EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE IN USR

Examples from six partner countries will encourage other HEIs interested in working towards excellence in the field of university social responsibility.



04 USR QUALITY SEAL APPLICATION PROCESS

This handbook provides comprehensive information and guidance on: university social responsibility harmonised indicators; the self-evaluation tool; and university social responsibility quality seal evaluation process.

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05 CREATION OF AN EXTERNAL EVALUATION BOARD

This document defines all the necessary steps to create an external evaluation board (EEB) in charge of assigning the USR Quality Seal as well as to point out its assessment procedures.



06 THE SEAL AND QUALITY CERTIFICATION IN SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The aim of this document is to identify who, how and by what processes the seal and quality certificate will be awarded to European HEIs that have passed the assessment processes.

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